



STATE OF ARIZONA

JANET NAPOLITANO  
GOVERNOR

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May 12, 2008

The Honorable Timothy S. Bee  
President  
Arizona State Senate  
1700 W. Washington  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Re: Senate Bill 1279; Review Committee; Arizona National Rankings

Dear President Bee,

Today I vetoed Senate Bill 1279, which would have created a joint legislative and executive appointed committee to study existing education and wage earning rankings of Arizona compared to other states.

It has long been said that there are three kinds of lies, "Lies, damn lies and statistics." The goal of Senate Bill 1279 is to conduct a review of various national rankings that include Arizona, analyze the statistical validity of the rankings, and help policy makers make better use of statistical data. This is a commendable task, but one that is already being undertaken by numerous policy makers, advisory groups and regulatory agencies who are trained to engage in peer review analysis.

The committee Senate Bill 1279 creates not only would duplicate the statistical analyses already being conducted by others, it would have been asked to do so without any funding. The statistical usefulness of such a committee approaches zero.

For these and other reasons, I have vetoed Senate Bill 1279.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Janet Napolitano", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Janet Napolitano  
Governor

JN:LK

cc: The Honorable Jim Weiers  
The Honorable John Huppenthal